

Welcome to the Virginia School Safety Survey

This is a secure, web-based survey conducted by the Virginia Center for School Safety. Submission of this survey fulfills the Virginia School Safety Audit requirement. ([Virginia Code §22.1-279.8](#)).

While answering the following survey questions, please base your responses on the conditions in your school during the 2007 - 2008 school year.

Should you have any questions or experience technical problems with the survey, contact Donna Bowman at the Virginia Center for School Safety, 804-371-6506 or donna.bowman@dcjs.virginia.gov.

Please answer the following questions about your school as accurately as possible.

I. SCHOOL IDENTIFICATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. Select your school division.

To ensure the appropriate school and school division are credited with this survey submission/compliance, please take a moment to access the school name/code look-up feature linked to the following two questions in order to identify your school's formal name and appropriate VA Department of Education (DOE)-assigned school code.

2. What is the name of your school?
3. What is your school's ID number?

If we have any questions about your survey responses, we would like to be able to contact you. Please provide us with your contact information:

4. What is your name?
5. What is your title?
6. What is your phone number?
7. What is your email address?
8. Which of the following best describes your school?

Elementary
Middle
High
Combined Grades
Primary
Pre-Kindergarten
Kindergarten
Alternative
Career/Technical/Vocational
Charter
Magnet
Governor's
Special Education
Correctional Education

Adult Education
School for the Deaf and Blind
Other (describe):

(if alternative)

8a. If your school is alternative, what is its primary function?

Disciplinary
Academic assistance
Combination disciplinary/academic assistance
Other (describe):

9. What grades are taught at your school?

Pre-Kindergarten
Kindergarten
1st grade
2nd grade
3rd grade
4th grade
5th grade
6th grade
7th grade
8th grade
9th grade
10th grade
11th grade
12th grade

10. What was your [fall membership enrollment number](#) on September 30, 2007?

11. Which setting best describes the area where your school is located?

Urban
Suburban
[Exurban](#)
Rural
Other (describe):

II. COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

12. Do your school administrators have regular meetings with local law enforcement to discuss problems in and around the school?

Yes
No

12a. (If yes) How frequently are these meetings held?

Weekly
Monthly
Quarterly
Twice a year
Once a year
Once every two years or more

Other (describe):

13. Does your school regularly receive crime data reports from local law enforcement regarding crimes occurring in the area near the school?

Yes

No

- 13a. (If yes) How frequently do you receive these reports?

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Quarterly

Twice a year

Once a year

Once every two years or more

Other (describe):

Question 14 refers to a code section [Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.3:1 \(Paragraph B\)](#) which requires local law enforcement to notify schools of certain offenses committed by students under certain circumstances.

14. Does your school routinely receive such notification on these offenses from local law enforcement?

Yes

No

III. CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLAN (CMP)/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP)

[Virginia Code §22.1-279.8](#) describes school crisis and emergency management plans. It also states that "each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical response plan."

15. How was your CMP/EMP practiced during the school year?

Administration/faculty/staff training

Student training/awareness sessions

Parent training/awareness sessions

First responder coordination (EMS, fire, police, hazmat, etc.)

Table top exercises with crisis team members

Full scale drill with crisis team and public safety partners

Did not practice our CMP/EMP

16. Did you have to activate any portion of your CMP/EMP during the 2007 – 2008 school year due to an actual [emergency](#) or crisis?

Yes

No

(If yes)

- 16a. How many times did you activate the plan during the school year?

- 16b. Why did you activate your crisis plan?

Incidence of violence / crime occurring on school property
Incidence of violence / crime occurring off school property
Student or staff accident or death off campus
Community incident that impacted school
Incident at another school which impacted your school
Hazardous chemical incident
Weather-related event
Other (describe):

17. Does your school's CMP/EMP include a mandatory debriefing process following any plan activation?

Yes
No

18. Does your school have an [electronic notification system](#) for notifying parents/guardians of an [emergency](#) at your school?

Yes
No

- 18a. (If yes) Did you use your school's [electronic notification system](#) during the 2007 – 2008 school year?

Yes
No

- 18b. (If yes) Under what [emergency](#) circumstances did you activate your school's [electronic notification system](#)?

Incidence of violence /crime occurring on school property
Incidence of violence /crime occurring off school property
Student or staff accident or death off campus
Community incident that impacted school
Incident at another school which impacted your school
Update about ongoing critical incident or emergency situation
Hazardous chemical incident
Sudden schedule changes
Weather related event
Other (describe):

19. Does your school label all exterior entrances/exits of your building(s) with exterior signs or markings visible from a distance of 200 feet to assist emergency responders at your school?

Yes
No

20. Does your school have classrooms that are not on ground level (such as in a basement or second floor)?

Yes
No

- 20a. (If yes) Are all non-ground level classrooms equipped with an external means to evacuate the room if necessary other than the door (i.e., ladder, window escape)?

Yes
No

21. Does your school's CMP/EMP address incidents involving school buses?

Yes
No

21a. (If yes) Have your school bus drivers received training on the specific areas of the CMP/EMP that pertain to them?

Yes
No

21a - 1. (If yes to 20a) How often do bus drivers receive training on the CMP/EMP?

Monthly
Quarterly
Twice a year
Once a year
Once every two years or more
Other (describe):

22. Does your school's CMP/EMP address incidents occurring on field trips or other off-site activities?

Yes
No

23. Has your school clearly designated parts of your Crisis Management Plan/Emergency Management Plan for exemption from [Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\)](#) requests in order to protect sensitive, security-related information from public access?

Yes
No

IV. STUDENT/STAFF SAFETY

24. Which of the following safety-related policies has your school instituted within the last year?

Bullying
Communication devices (cell phones, pagers, etc.)
Dress code
Drug/illegal substances
Drug testing
Gangs
Homeland security
Sexual harassment
Student threat assessment
Weapons (including search and seizure)
Zero tolerance
Other (describe):

25. Structured [anonymous reporting systems](#) allow students to report potential dangers without giving names or speaking directly with school staff. Does your school have such a procedure? *(NOTE: This does not include confidential verbal reports.)*

Yes

No

- 25a. (If yes) Which of the following describes your anonymous reporting system(s)?

Law enforcement-based program (i.e., Crime Stoppers, Crime Solvers)

Online submission

Telephone hotline

Written submission (example: via dropbox)

Other (describe):

- 25b. (If yes) Approximately how many anonymous reports were submitted by students in the 2007 – 2008 school year?

0

1 – 5

6 – 10

11 – 20

21 – 40

41 – 60

61 – 100

over 100

don't know

26. Did your school distribute an anonymous survey/questionnaire to students in the 2007 – 2008 school year to assess student school safety concerns?

Yes

No

- 26a. Based on the survey/questionnaire responses, what three issues concerned students most? (select three)

[Bullying](#) (i.e., teasing) in school

[Bullying](#) (i.e., teasing) on school bus

Gang activity

Lack of adult supervision

Substance abuse issues within school

Theft of personal property

Weapons on campus

Other (describe):

27. Did your school distribute an anonymous survey/questionnaire to parents in the 2007 – 2008 school year to assess their school safety concerns?

Yes

No

- 27a. (If yes) Based on the survey/questionnaire responses, what three issues concerned parents most? (select three)

[Bullying](#) (i.e., teasing) in school

[Bullying](#) (i.e., teasing) on school bus

Gang activity
Lack of adult supervision
Substance abuse issues within school
Theft of personal property
Weapons on campus
Other (describe):

28. Did your school distribute an anonymous survey/questionnaire to school faculty/staff in the 2007 – 2008 school year to assess their school safety concerns?

Yes
No

28a. (If yes) Based on survey/questionnaire responses, what three issues concerned faculty/staff members most? (select three)

[Bullying](#) (i.e., teasing) in school
[Bullying](#)
Gang activity
Lack of adult supervision
Substance abuse issues within school
Theft of personal property
Weapons on campus
Other (describe):

29. Does your school use a [formal threat assessment](#) process to respond to student threats of violence?

No, we have no formal process
Yes, we follow the [guidelines developed by the University of Virginia \(UVA\)](#)
Yes, we have a formal process developed in-house
Yes, we have a formal process developed by a third party

(If 29 = formal process dev in-house or by third party)

29a. If you use a formal process other than the UVA guidelines, does your process involve a multidisciplinary team?

Yes
No

(If 29 ≠ no)

29b. How many threats were assessed using this process during school year 2007 - 2008?

0
1
2
3
4
5
6-10
11-15
16-20
Over 20

(If 29b > 0)

29b-1. How many of these threats were determined to be viable or substantive?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- Over 20

30. If you had the resources available for a new safety program/measure, which *one* would you implement first? (check one)

[School resource officer \(SRO\)](#)

[School security officer \(SSO\)](#)

Two-way communication system linking all classrooms and main office

Security cameras

Comprehensive and practiced school crisis plan

Automated parental notification system

Structured [anonymous threat reporting system](#) for students, parents and staff

Updated locks on all interior and exterior doors

Fencing around entire campus

Controlled access main entrance

School safety training for staff

Drug testing program

Gang prevention program

Peer mediation program

Conflict resolution program

Bullying prevention program

Metal detectors

Other (describe):

*For the purposes of this survey, a **zero tolerance violation is defined as** engaging in a prohibited behavior that results in an automatic recommendation for expulsion (although there may be provision to use an alternative disciplinary consequence if it is deemed appropriate). This includes violations for bringing a firearm to school as well any other prohibited behaviors that result in an automatic recommendation for expulsion.*

Answer the questions on this page with this definition in mind.

31. How many students in your school were recommended for expulsion because of zero tolerance violations during the 2007 - 2008 school year?
32. Virginia legislation permits school boards to decide whether a student will be expelled for a zero tolerance violation or given an alternative disciplinary sanction. How many students from your school were expelled for zero tolerance violations during the 2007 - 2008 school year?
33. How many students from your school were not expelled, but received an alternative disciplinary sanction for zero tolerance violations during the 2007 - 2008 school year? (NOTE: The sum of your answers to this question and 32 should equal the total given in 31.)

V. SCHOOL SECURITY/SURVEILLANCE

DCJS recommends that you consider designating the information you provide in this section of the survey as "protected from release" under [FOIA](#). The questions in this section of the survey ask about security practices at your school. Because the public release of such information might compromise safety and security plans, [Virginia Code §2.2-3705.2](#) and [§22.1-279.8](#) allow schools to designate such information as protected from release under the [Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\)](#). To obtain this protection, schools must specifically request this protection when they report school safety information to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

At the end of this section, you will be asked whether or not you would like to protect your responses - check "yes" if you want your information to be protected from release under [FOIA](#) and "no" if you do not want your information to be protected. Understand that DCJS' Virginia Center for School Safety will report the information in this section in an aggregated format for all schools, but it will not release specific information from identified schools if they have requested that their information be protected from public release under [FOIA](#).

34. Do you have two-way communication between your office and other areas of the school?

Yes
No

34a. (if yes) Does this two-way communication cover all areas of your school's property (both interior and exterior)?

Yes
No

35. What methods does your school administration use to maintain communication with school buses when they are in use?

Two way radio
Cell phone
Maintained through division's transportation department
None
Other (describe):

36. What methods does your school use to monitor schools buses and/or safety on school buses?

GPS Tracking System
Randomly patrolled by school faculty/staff
Randomly patrolled by security personnel (including SROs, SSOs, or private security)
Security camera (monitored live in real time)
Security camera (taped, not monitored in real time)
Informal monitoring by bus driver
None
Other (describe):

37. Did your school conduct any type of safety audit procedures (other than this survey) in school year 2007 - 2008?

Yes
No

37a. (If yes) What type(s) of safety audit procedures did your school conduct during the 2007 – 2008 school year? (Check all that apply)

Department of Education's School Safety Audit Protocol checklist

Other (non-DOE) building assessment checklist

Physical safety inspection

Solicit student/staff input on safety issues

Threat/risk assessment process

Other (describe):

37a-1: (If "physical safety inspection" is checked) Who conducts the physical safety inspection of your school?

Your school's safety team

A visiting school safety team

Designated division staff

Law enforcement officer (not state certified crime prevention specialist)

State certified crime prevention specialist

Private contractor

Other (describe):

38. Is the main entrance to your school building/campus secured by a [controlled access system](#) during school hours?

Yes

No

39. Other than the main entrance, are all exterior entrances to your school building/campus locked during school hours?

Yes

No

39a. (If yes) Is a facility walk-through conducted each morning to ensure all other exterior entrances are locked?

Yes, a check is performed every morning

No, no routine check is conducted

No, by default all doors are programmed/set to locked-mode

Other (describe):

39b. (If no) Other than the main entrance, why are some exterior entrances to your school building/campus unlocked during school hours? (check all that apply)

Ease of access to and from athletic fields

Outdated or inoperable locking mechanisms

Students and staff sometimes prop open doors for ventilation

Access to auxiliary classrooms

Regular delivery of supplies (cafeteria, loading docks, other deliveries)

Other (describe):

40. Can all classrooms in your school be locked from both the inside and the outside of the classroom?

Yes

No

41. Which of the following security measures are used at your school during school hours?

Adult hall monitors
Interior video surveillance system
Exterior video surveillance system
Exterior intercom/video system
Fixed metal detectors
Portable metal detecting wands
Locker checks/searches
Greeters at each unlocked entrance
Other (describe):

41a. (If interior or exterior video surveillance system checked): Are all video surveillance systems actively monitored at all times during the school day?

Yes, all are monitored at all times during the day
No, none are monitored at all times during the day
Some video surveillance systems are monitored at all times during the day
All video surveillance systems are monitored periodically
Other (describe):

41b. (If exterior video surveillance system checked): What areas of the school does your exterior video surveillance system monitor?

Exterior of your building
School grounds surrounding the building
Other (describe):

42. Do you monitor your school parking lot(s) during school hours?

Yes
No

42a. (If yes) What monitoring methods are used?

Randomly patrolled by school security personnel (including SRO, SSO, or private security companies)
Randomly patrolled by school faculty/staff
Randomly patrolled by law enforcement
Security cameras (monitored live in real time)
Security cameras (taped, not monitored in real time)
No formal surveillance, only informal monitoring
Other (describe):

43. Are there established security measures for monitoring your school during the summer?

Yes
No

43a. (If yes) What types of security measures are used?

Alarm system
Exterior video surveillance system
Interior video surveillance system
Randomly patrolled by school staff/faculty

Randomly patrolled by security personnel (including SROs, SSOs, or private security companies)

No formal surveillance, only informal monitoring

44. Is someone stationed at the front entrance of your school at all times during school hours to ensure that visitors report to the main office/visitor check-in?

Yes

No

Other (describe)

45. In reference to visitor check-in, which of the following groups of visitors are required to sign in?

Parents/guardians

Visitors meeting with specific individuals/groups (e.g., friends/relatives of students or staff, club speakers, military recruiters, etc.)

Commercial visitors (e.g., delivery persons, trade workers such as plumbers)

School-related visitors (e.g., substitute teachers, volunteers, school system or division personnel)

46. In reference to visitor check-in, which of the following groups of visitors are required to show photo ID?

Parents/guardians

Visitors meeting with specific individuals/groups (e.g., friends/relatives of students or staff, club speakers, military recruiters, etc.)

Commercial visitors (e.g., delivery persons, trade workers such as plumbers)

School-related visitors (e.g., substitute teachers, volunteers, school system or division personnel)

47. In reference to visitor check-in, which of the following groups of visitors are required to wear visitor ID badge during visit?

Parents/guardians

Visitors meeting with specific individuals/groups (e.g., friends/relatives of students or staff, club speakers, military recruiters, etc.)

Commercial visitors (e.g., delivery persons, trade workers such as plumbers)

School-related visitors (e.g., substitute teachers, volunteers, school system or division personnel)

48. In reference to visitor check-in, which of the following groups of visitors are required to be escorted?

Parents/guardians

Visitors meeting with specific individuals/groups (e.g., friends/relatives of students or staff, club speakers, military recruiters, etc.)

Commercial visitors (e.g., delivery persons, trade workers such as plumbers)

School-related visitors (e.g., substitute teachers, volunteers, school system or division personnel)

49. Does your school office keep a log of sex offender registry bulletins?

Yes

No

49a. (If yes) Is it standard practice at your school for office staff to check school visitors' names, including parents/guardians, against sex offender registry bulletins?

Yes

No

50. Which of the following background checks do you conduct on parent/guardian volunteers who work with students at your school?

Criminal background check

[Sex offender registry](#)

Background checks are conducted by district office

Background checks are not conducted on parent/guardian volunteers

We don't have parent/guardian volunteers

Other (describe):

51. Which of the following background checks do you conduct on non-parent / non-guardian volunteers who work with students at your school?

Criminal background check

[Sex offender registry](#)

Background checks are conducted by district office

Background checks are not conducted on non-parent / non-guardian volunteers

We don't have non-parent / non-guardian volunteers

Other (describe):

52. What type(s) of safety/security personnel are present at your school *at all times* during the regular school day?

[School Resource Officers \(SROs\)](#)

[School Security Officers \(SSOs\)](#)

Private security officers

We do not have safety/security personnel present *at all times* during the day.

Other (describe):

52a. (if yes to SROs) How many [School Resource Officers](#) (SROs) are at your school at all times during the regular school day? *(Enter numeric response)*

52b. (if yes to SROs) Does your school permit SROs to carry their service weapons while on school grounds?

Yes

No

52c. (if yes to SSOs) How many [School Security Officers](#) (SSOs) are at your school at all times during the regular school day? *(Enter numeric response)*

52d. (if yes to SSOs) Who is primarily responsible for hiring the SSO personnel that work in your school? (check one)

School Security Supervisor

Division Security Supervisor

School Principal

School Division Administration

Other (describe):

52e. (if yes to SSOs) Are SSOs at your school required to complete some form of defense tactics training?

Yes

No

Don't know

52f. (if yes to Private security officers) How many private security officers are at your school at all times during the regular school day? *(Enter numeric response)*

53. What type(s) of safety/security personnel are present at school-related events? *(Check all that apply)*

[School Resource Officers \(SROs\)](#)

[School Security Officers \(SSOs\)](#)

Private security officers

None

Other (describe):

Virginia Code definition: [§18.2-46.1](#) Criminal street gang means "any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, (i) which has as one of its primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more criminal activities, (ii) which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and (iii) whose members individually or collectively have engaged in the commission of, attempt to commit, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of two or more predicate criminal acts, at least one of which is an act of violence, provided such acts were not part of a common act or transaction."

54. Did your school have any gang-related problems or incidents during the 2007 – 2008 school year?

Yes

No

55. Did the number of gang-related problems or incidents increase, decrease, or stay about the same when compared with the previous school year? *(Check one)*

Increased

Decreased

Stayed about the same

56. Did your school identify any gang-related graffiti found on school property during the 2007 – 2008 school year?

Yes

No

57. Did gang-related graffiti increase, decrease, or stay about the same when compared with the previous year?

Increased

Decreased

Stayed about the same

58. How does your school division house school buses while not in use during the summer?
(Check all that apply)

In secure parking facility
In centralized depot
On school property
At employee residences
Wherever possible
Don't know
Other (describe):

- 58a. (If secure parking facility, centralized depot, or on school property are checked) What security measures do these facilities/does this facility have in place? (Check all that apply)

Perimeter is fenced and locked
Area patrolled by school faculty/staff
Area patrolled by security personnel (including SROs, SSOs, or private security)
Security camera (monitored live in real time)
Security camera (taped, not monitored in real time)
Informal monitoring
None
Don't know
Other (describe):

59. [FOIA](#): Now that you have read and responded to the questions in this section of the survey (*Section V. School Security/Surveillance*), would you like to designate your responses to these questions as "protected from release" under [FOIA](#)?

Yes
No